served its purpose, and was no more necessary to Japan, whose withdrawal from the League, though not from the Disarmament Conference, took place five months after the publication of the Lytton Report. An invasion of Jehol by Japanese troops aroused a faint reaction at Geneva; the large-scale invasion of China which followed some years later, none at all, not even being discussed there. By that time public opinion had become accustomed to invasions, and to make them palatable, did not require Mr, Matsuoka's assurance that Japan would never infringe obligations solemnly undertaken, Sir John Simon's admonitions to suspend judgment until all the facts were known, a Lytton Commission courageously and perseveringly to pursue labours productive of 400 pages, 100,000 words. Sir John by that time had left the Foreign Office; Lord Lytton had found in art, particularly the promotion of a National Theatre, a more congenial field of activity than the Far East, and the French Press other sources of income than Japan; and Mr. Matsuoka?—who knows or cares what had happened to Mr. Matsuoka ?

Japan's slow conquest of China became in time accepted, if not acceptable. Some denounced it, but most took it for granted; and only desultory attempts were made to reinvoke the League Covenant. It was all happening far away; China was huge, and would take long to consume, longer still to digest; might even prove indigestible. Even when British subjects were molested, deprived of their trousers, and made to expose bare shanks to interested Chinese coolies, the indignation caused was shrill and ineffectual. Mr. Chamberlain remarked that such

insults were intolerable, and made his blood boil; but his intolerance of them did not prevent their occurrence, nor his boiling blood have any evident consequences. A Japanese general explained to a gathering of journalists that his soldiers were simple peasants, who lacked the civilised man's shame at exposing their nakedness, and who therefore found inexplicable the resentment aroused when they deprived Europeans of their trousers. Although not a simple peasant himself, he offered to strip publicly then and there; but the offer was not accepted.